

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants note with appreciation the personal interview conducted between Michael Blankstein of WMS Gaming, the undersigned, Examiner Ross Williams and Examiner Bob Pezzuto on April 26, 2007. Pursuant to the discussions in the interview, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, 16, 22 and 27 to clarify the claims, and have correspondingly amended the dependent claims, as necessary, to provide correct antecedent basis.

The Applicants agree with the Interview Summary Sheet provided at the end of the interview in which the Examiners acknowledged the proposed claims distinguish over and overcome the art of record.

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 16-21 remain in the application for further prosecution.

Claims 22-24, 26-29 and 31 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer in view of a restriction requirement imposed by Examiners Williams and Pezzuto during the above-noted Examiner Interview.

1. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections, as noted on page 2 of the Office Action, and thank the Examiner for such withdrawal. Applicants note that the text of the prior rejection was inadvertently included in the Office Action, despite the Examiner's withdrawal thereof.

2. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 22, 24-27, and 29-31 were rejected under 37 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gauselmann (U.S. 6,884,173) in view of O'Donovan *et al.* (U.S. 2003/0195031) and further in view of Hughs-Baird (U.S. 6,468,156).

Claims 23 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gauselmann (U.S. 6,884,173) in view of Walker (U.S. 2003/0199479).

Claim 1 recites a method for configuring a gaming machine via an interactive configuration screen. The method comprises the acts of displaying a first plurality of a maximum number of pay lines for a single game theme, detecting operator selection of a maximum number of pay lines from the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines, and displaying a second plurality of a maximum number of pay lines for the single game theme responsive to the operator selection from the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines, the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines being different than the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines. The method also includes the acts of detecting operator selection of a maximum number of pay lines from the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines and configuring game play of the gaming machine based on the maximum number of pay lines selected from each of the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines and the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines.

Claim 7 recites a method for operator selection of manufacturer-limited game configuration values for single-themed game play on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a video display for displaying an interactive configuration screen. This method comprises the acts of detecting operator selection of a first game denomination value from a plurality of game denomination values displayed on the interactive configuration screen, and, in response to detecting operator selection of the first game denomination value, displaying a first plurality of different manufacturer-limited game configuration values. This method also includes the acts of detecting operator selection of a first manufacturer-limited game configuration value from the first plurality, detecting operator selection of a second game denomination value from

the plurality of game denomination values, and, in response to detecting operator selection of the second game denomination value, displaying a second plurality of different manufacturer-limited game configuration values different than said first plurality of different manufacturer-limited game configuration values. The method also includes the acts of detecting selection of a second manufacturer-limited game configuration value from the second plurality and configuring game play based on the first manufacturer-limited game configuration value and based on the second manufacturer-limited game configuration value.

Claim 16 recites a gaming machine for single theme game play comprising a video display, a plurality of mechanical buttons selectable by a player during game play, and a controller operatively coupled to the video display and the plurality of mechanical buttons, the controller comprising a processor and a memory coupled to the processor. The controller is programmed to display a first plurality of a maximum number of pay lines on the video display, detect operator selection of a maximum number of pay lines from the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines, and display a second plurality of a maximum number of pay lines on the video display responsive to the selection from the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines, the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines being different than the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines. The controller is also programmed to detect operator selection of a maximum number of pay lines from the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines and configure single theme game play of the gaming machine based on the maximum number of pay lines selected from each of the first plurality of the maximum number of pay lines and the second plurality of the maximum number of pay lines.

Applicants submit that, in view of the present clarifying amendments and the discussions in the Examiner Interview of April 26, 2007, that the present 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections are overcome. Withdrawal of the pending obviousness rejections is therefore requested.

3. CONCLUSION

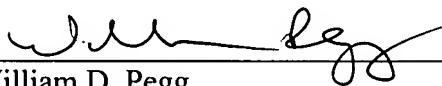
It is the Applicant's belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

It is believed that no fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000232USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 3, 2007



William D. Pegg
Reg. No. 42,988
Nixon Peabody LLP
161 North Clark, 48th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 425-3900

Attorney for Applicants